

DPC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4
May 2004

CBDA Meeting June 10: Delta Improvements Package

CALFED's Record of Decision (ROD) outlines a balanced approach to achieving key resource management goals for the Delta. A subgroup of State and Federal implementing agencies are proposing to undertake a series of actions— including the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP), South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), CVP-SWP Intertie, Freeport Regional Diversion Project, and Trinity River Project— in accordance with the ROD. The subgroup, called the Integrated Water Operations Forum and Framework (IWOFF), has developed a draft matrix of actions, commitments, and schedules for numerous individual actions under these larger programs; an interagency implementation agreement is being drafted.

The individual actions proposed under the Delta Improvements Package address four key areas: water supply reliability, water quality improvement, ecosystem restoration, and science. The actions include:

Water Supply Reliability

- Implement SWP/CVP integration plan
- Increase SWP pumping capacity to 8,500 cfs
- Design and construct SWP/CVP intertie

Water Quality Improvement

- Reduce agricultural drainage impacts/relocate CCWD intakes on Veale and Byron Tracts
- Continue study of, and develop a strategy to improve, Franks Tract to improve water quality
- Install permanent operable barriers in the South Delta to maintain water levels for South Delta Water Agency diverters
- Address Stockton dissolved oxygen problem
- Improve flows and water quality in the lower San Joaquin River (SJR) through various programs including San Luis Drain reevaluation, SJR recirculation studies, and actions to meet salinity and flow standards at Vernalis.

Ecosystem Restoration

- Initiate a long-term Environmental Water Account (EWA) with a combination of public and user funding
- Update ESA/ecosystem commitments based on new knowledge

Science

- Issue science agenda related to flows, water quality, and project operations

More detailed information about the Delta Improvements Package, including a detailed matrix of actions and timelines, is available at calwater.ca.gov.

The Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) received a briefing on the Delta Improvements Package on Thursday, May 13. IWOFF continues to refine the package of commitments, linkages, and schedules; the implementation MOU should be finalized in June 2004. Before the Bay-Delta Authority takes action on the proposal and MOU at its June 10 meeting, two public hearings will be held to solicit input:

Thursday, May 27, 9:30 a.m.—noon
555 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor, Sacramento

CA Bay-Delta Authority offices

Thursday, May 27, 4:30—6:30 p.m.
14215 River Road, Walnut Grove

Jean Harvie Community Center

Mark Your Calendars!

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| • Delta Protection Commission | Thursday, May 27, 2004, 6:30 p.m. |
| • DPC Delta Land Use Issues Committee | Monday, June 14, 2004, 2-4 p.m. |
| • DPC Agriculture Committee | Wednesday, June 30, 2004, 2-4 p.m. |

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove. Please call (916) 776-2290 if you need directions.

Commission to Issue Determination on Oakley's General Plan

At its May 27, 2004 meeting, the Delta Protection Commission will be issuing a determination on whether the City of Oakley's General Plan, which was adopted by the City on December 16, 2002, is in conformance with the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta. The City of Oakley is bounded by Highway 160 to the west, Big Break and Dutch Slough to the north, Jersey Island Road to the east, and Neroly Road to the south, and includes an expansion area on the eastern portion of Hotchkiss Tract. Most of the City's area is located in the Delta's Secondary Zone, with the exception of tidally-influenced areas at Big Break, which are in the Primary Zone. In the City's General Plan, the areas along the Big Break shoreline are designated Commercial Recreation (for existing marinas), Commercial, Delta Recreation, and Semi-Public (Ironhouse Sanitary District lands).

Under the Delta Protection Act of 1992 which created the Commission, the Commission is mandated to make certain written findings regarding all Delta-area City and County General Plans, including that the General Plan and any development approved or proposed in accordance with it:

- Is consistent with the Commission's regional plan;
- Will not result in wetland or riparian loss;
- Will not result in the degradation of water quality;
- Will not result in increased nonpoint-source pollution;
- Will not result in the degradation or reduction of Pacific Flyway habitat;
- Will not result in reduced public access (provided access does not infringe on private property rights);
- Will not expose the public to increased flood hazard;

- Will not adversely impact agricultural lands or increase the potential for vandalism, trespass, or creation of public or private nuisances on public or private land;
- Will not result in the degradation or impairment of levee system integrity;
- Will not adversely impact navigation; and
- Will not result in increased requirements or restrictions on agricultural practices in the Delta Primary Zone.

The Commission considered a staff report on the Oakley General Plan's conformance with the Commission's regional plan, and held a public hearing on the matter, at its March 25, 2004 meeting. No public testimony was offered at that hearing contesting this initial determination; a 30-day public review period closed April 15. The Commission is now slated to officially adopt a resolution at its meeting on May 27.

BRIEFING ON ELK GROVE GENERAL PLAN

At its May 27 meeting, the Commission will also be receiving an informational briefing on the City of Elk Grove's General Plan, adopted November 19, 2003. Because no portions of the City of Elk Grove are located within the Delta Primary Zone, the Elk Grove General Plan is not mandated to be in conformance with the Commission's regional plan. However, the City did include substantial areas of the Primary Zone within its "planning area"; its General Plan provides very general conceptual policy advice for land use in these areas. Commission staff therefore thought it would be timely to have City staff brief the Commission on the General Plan. If the City were to add these Primary Zone areas into its city limits, it would need to submit its General Plan to the Commission for a consistency determination at that time.

Update on Legislation of Interest

The Commission is continuing to track the progress of several bills through the legislative process:

AB 2476 (Wolk): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – The original text of this bill proposed changing the voting membership of the Delta Protection Commission. The most recent amendment to the bill (April 26) retains the proposed membership changes, requires DPC to identify lands in the Secondary Zone which, if developed, would impact the Primary Zone, clarifies actions leading to an amendment of the Commission's regional plan and implications for appeal of local government actions, eliminates the \$250,000 cap on the Delta Protection Fund, and requires any local government proposing a change in land use (through amendment of its general plan) from agriculture or habitat to urban use to mitigate that conversion at a ratio of 1:1 (or equivalent fees).

SB 1155 (Machado): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: Vernalis Salinity Standards – The original text of this bill proposed prohibiting a public agency (including the Bay-Delta Authority) from cooperating with any other public agency to increase export pumping in the absence of certain ROD commitments as developed in an open public process. Amendments to the bill on May 5 redrafted its language, so that it now reads that the State should not assist an entity in increasing export pumping if said entity fails to meet water quality requirements that are conditions of water right permits or licenses. It refers specifically to salinity and flow standards at Vernalis. This bill will be heard in Senate Appropriations on May 17.

SB 1607 (Machado): Local Agency Formation – As amended on April 29, 2004, this bill's language would require LAFCOs to use the criteria in the Delta Protection Act to evaluate a proposal by a local government agency to expand its sphere of influence into the Primary Zone. A May 10 hearing before the Senate Local Government Committee was postponed; no new date has been set.

Delta RC&D Steering Committee Receives GVC LEGACI Grant

Delta Protection Commission staff is pleased to announce that the CA Delta Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Steering Committee has been awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Great Valley Center's LEGACI program to continue its pursuit of nonprofit incorporation.

Commission staff has dedicated some effort over the last two years to convening the CA Delta RC&D Steering Committee, currently comprised of local land trusts, county farm bureaus, and delta area chambers of commerce. An application was submitted to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in October 2002, requesting designation of the Steering Committee as an official RC&D Council, complete with a full-time staff member that could pursue grants to carry out projects as determined by the Council. Although the application was not funded in 2003, and due to funding constraints it is not anticipated that any new Councils will be approved in 2004, the Steering Committee received \$10,000 from NRCS in 2003 to continue pursuit of RC&D Council designation. That \$10,000 grant is being administered by the San Joaquin Resource Conservation District on behalf of the Steering Committee. However, one of the restrictions on the NRCS funds is that the money cannot be used for the actual filing fees associated with submitting nonprofit incorporation paperwork to the Secretary of State's office and the Internal Revenue Service.

Commission staff therefore applied for a LEGACI grant from the Great Valley Center, requesting an amount of up to \$1,500 for the actual filing fees associated with nonprofit incorporation. This request for funding was approved in April.

The \$1,500 grant is included among 42 programs and projects from within the Central Valley sharing \$345,000 in LEGACI's Spring 2004 grant cycle. The grant will also be administered by the San Joaquin RCD on behalf of the Steering Committee.

LEGACI will be soliciting new proposals for its Fall 2004 cycle of grant funding; applications are due September 10. More information on the LEGACI program and the Great Valley Center is available at www.greatvalley.org.

Isleton's Annual Crawdad Festival, June 18-20

The City of Isleton is preparing for its annual Crawdad Festival, always held over Father's Day weekend in June. This immensely popular three-day festival, which draws crowds of nearly 200,000 people, includes a variety of events and activities for all ages, including crawdad races, helicopter rides, live music (20 bands on four stages), vendors, and a carnival complete with pony rides. There is also an endless variety of food available at the Food Court, including gumbo, Jambalaya, alligator on a stick, and of course crawdads!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FIVE-MILE FUN RUN, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY MORNING, HAS BEEN CANCELED FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL.

Admission to the festival is free, although there will likely be a per-vehicle parking fee. RV and

tent camping will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis, for a fee.

There will also be a shuttle bus transporting festival-goers to and from various marinas in the area; the cost is \$4 per person (children under 12 free when riding with an adult). The bus will be operating on Saturday and Sunday only, with the first bus starting its route from Isleton at 9 a.m. Saturday (10 a.m. Sunday), and the last bus departing the festival at 7 p.m. on both nights.

For more information on this year's Crawdad Festival and associated activities, including schedules for live music and entertainment, volunteer opportunities, and a list of the marinas that are included on the shuttle bus route, visit the Isleton Chamber of Commerce's official website: www.isletoncoc.org.